

REMARKS

Claims 1, 4-16, 41 and 42 are in the application. Claims 1 and 41 are amended. No claim is allowed.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112

Claim 41 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. The two terms to which the examiner objects have been deleted. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1, 4-16, 41, and 42 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0137978 to Cole et al. (hereinafter “Cole”) in view of U.S. Patent Application No. 6,782,245 to Lazzarotto et al (hereinafter “Lazzarotto”). This rejection is respectfully traversed. In Cole, there is one embodiment disclosed where the two seating units in the gaming station 20 are adapted to present two independent games. Par. [0119]. In such a case, the *two units* may be linked wirelessly to transmit credit information. Cole does not teach that each unit can communicate wirelessly with its peripheral devices. There is certainly no suggestion that there is a communications manager that can configure a controller (master gaming controller, peripheral controller, or otherwise) associated with a peripheral device to wirelessly communicate with both a master gaming controller and a peripheral device.

The reliance on Lazzarotto does not remedy the deficiencies of Cole. The processor 106 (Fig. 1 in Lazzarotto) is not a peripheral controller. See the peripheral controllers 124 in Fig. 1 of the present application and as recited in amended Claim 1. It not suggested or disclosed that the processor 106 in Lazzarotto has the capability of configuring each peripheral device through its controller to communicate wirelessly with both the master gaming controller and another peripheral device. Decoding an incoming data signal does not require the capability of configuring the peripheral device to communicate with another peripheral device. Lazzarotto teaches that each peripheral device only has the capability of communicating with the hub 100 (Fig. 1).

It is submitted that it would not have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made from the teachings of Cole in view of Lazzarotto to provide a gaming machine master gaming controller with a wireless communication manager capable of configuring peripheral controllers and peripheral devices in a manner recited in the claims.

Accordingly, for the foregoing reasons, it is submitted that the independent claims and the claims dependent thereon are patentable over the combination of Cole and Lazzarotto. Withdrawal of the rejection is earnestly solicited.

It is submitted that this amendment places the above-identified patent application in condition for allowance. Early favorable consideration of this amendment is earnestly solicited and Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. If, in the opinion of the examiner, an interview would expedite the prosecution of this application, the examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at the number indicated below.

Applicant hereby petitions for any further extension of time that may be required to maintain the pendency of this case, and any required fee for such extension or any further fee required in connection with the filing of this amendment is to be charged to Deposit Account No. 504480 (Order No. IGT1P060X2/P000568-018).

Respectfully submitted,
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